

Distinguishing Characteristics

E-001275

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Memorandum

Date: September 17, 1997

To: CALFED Policy Group

From: Lester A. Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Update on Distinguishing Characteristics to be Used in Detailed Evaluation

Summary

A package of eighteen characteristics of the alternatives that could be used in detailed evaluation of Program alternatives was discussed at the August 14, 1997 CALFED Policy Group meeting. Since that time, we have made a few changes in the wording of these "distinguishing characteristics" as highlighted in **bold** below:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. In-Delta water quality | 10. Risk to export water supplies |
| 2. Export water quality | 11. Total cost |
| 3. Diversion effects on fisheries | 12. Assurances difficulty |
| 4. Delta flow circulation | 13. Habitat impacts |
| 5. Storage and release of water | 14. Land use changes |
| 6. Water supply opportunities | 15. Socio-economic impacts |
| 7. Water transfer opportunities | 16. Consistency with solution principles |
| 8. Operational flexibility | 17. Ability to phase facilities |
| 9. South Delta access to water | 18. Brackish water habitat |

CALFED staff presented a draft framework for the characteristics and an example on how the supporting information could be displayed for use in comparing alternatives at the BDAC

CALFED Agencies

California The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Update on Distinguishing Characteristics
September 17, 1997
Page Two

meeting on September 4, 1997. Staff will present an update on the status of the distinguishing characteristics and the in-progress documentation of supporting information at the September 23, 1997 meeting.

Action -- Information Items

The review of the eighteen distinguishing characteristics and the example display of the characteristics in the attached paper are informational items. They are meant to promote a fuller understanding of the process which will be used to compare the distinguishing characteristics of the alternatives. These examples are also meant to promote an understanding of the "tradeoffs" which must be evaluated in comparing the alternatives and which will play a key role in identifying a "preferred alternative". We look forward to your comments on these items.

Detailed Discussion

The mail packet for the BDAC meeting included the attached paper on the status of the eighteen distinguishing characteristics, a framework for each characteristic, and an example for showing how supporting information could be displayed.

Attachment